REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 16-19, 26, 29, 31, 33, 34, 42-45, 53, 54 and 57 are amended. Claims 1-57 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 16, 18, 19, 26, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 42-45, 53, 54 and 57 are stated (Office Action Summary) to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 8, 16, 18, 19, 26, 29, 33, 34, 42, 43, 53, 54 and 57 have been amended to place them in independent form and to include the recitation of the base claims and any intervening claims and thus are allowable. Claims 27, 30, 35, 44 and 45 depend from allowable claims and thus are also allowable.

Claim Objections

The Office Action indicates that claims 16 and 43-45 are rendered meaningless via inclusion of the term "over". Applicant respectively disagrees, however, in the spirit of cooperation and in order to advance the prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended claims 2, 5, 9, 16, 17, 31 and 43-45 to replace the term "over" with suitable synonyms. These amendments are not intended to alter the scope of the claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,930,473 to Teng et al.

(hereinafter "Teng"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21 are not anticipated by Teng and requests reconsideration in view of the discussion to follow.

Anticipation is a legal term of art. Applicant notes that in order to provide a valid finding of anticipation, several conditions must be met: (i) the reference must include every element of the claim within the four corners of the reference (see MPEP §2121); (ii) the elements must be set forth as they are recited in the claim (see MPEP §2131); (iii) the teachings of the reference cannot be modified (see MPEP §706.02, stating that "No question of obviousness is present" in conjunction with anticipation); and (iv) the reference must enable the invention as recited in the claim (see MPEP §2121.01). Additionally, (v) these conditions must be simultaneously satisfied.

The §102 rejection of claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21 is believed to be in error. Specifically, the PTO and Federal Circuit provide that §102 anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single prior art reference. *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 15 USPQ2d 1655 (Fed. Cir. 1990). The corollary of this rule is that the absence from a cited §102 reference of any claimed element negates the anticipation. *Kloster Speedsteel AB, et al. v. Crucible, Inc., et al.*, 793 F.2d 1565, 230 USPQ 81 (Fed. Cir. 1986). No §103 rejection has been lodged regarding claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21. Accordingly, if Applicant can demonstrate that Teng does not disclose any one claimed element with respect to claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21, the §102 rejections must be withdrawn, and a subsequent non-final action made with

a different rejection in the event that the Examiner still finds such claims to be not allowable.

Applicant notes the requirements of MPEP §2131, which states that "TO ANTICIPATE A CLAIM, THE REFERENCE MUST TEACH EVERY ELEMENT OF THE CLAIM." This MPEP section further states that "'A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.' *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). 'The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.' *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an ipsissimis verbis test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990)."

Teng describes a video application server for mediating live video services (Title). Teng discloses "An apparatus and method for use in a network including source clients and viewer clients connected to one or more shared transmission media. A video server is connected to one of the transmission media and is operative to control the broadcast and storage of multiple live or previously-stored video streams. The control may be provided via remote procedure call (RPC) commands transmitted between the server and the clients. In one embodiment, a video presentation system is provided in which a video stream from a source client is continuously broadcast to a number of viewer clients. One or more of the viewer clients

may be authorized by the source client to broadcast an audio and/or video stream to the other clients receiving the source video stream. In another embodiment, a multicast directory is provided to each of a plurality of viewer clients by transmitting directory information in a packet corresponding to a predetermined multicast address. The multicast directory indicates to a particular viewer client which of a number of video programs are available for broadcast to that client." (Abstract).

In contrast, claim 1 recites "A system comprising: a search server; an encoder; a client computer; wherein the encoder is to provide an indication of a currently available live presentation to the search server; wherein the client computer is to submit a request with search criteria to the search server; wherein the search server is to, determine whether the currently available live presentation from the encoder matches the search criteria, and transmit an identifier of the encoder to the client computer if the currently available live presentation matches the search criteria; and wherein the encoder is to provide the live presentation to the client computer".

Teng fails to teach or disclose a search server, as recited in claims 1 and 9. In fact, but for the "Field of **Search**" front page entry, Teng is void of the term "search". As such, Teng cannot possibly teach or disclose the search server recited in claims 1 and 9, and thus cannot possibly enable such.

Further, Teng does not teach or disclose use of search criteria, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action states (p. 3) that such is described at col. 1, lines 55-61. This portion of Teng is reproduced below:

> The largest population of users of such systems are likely to be health care institutions which have extensive audiovisual records. Such databases can be used for on-the-job reference such as revisiting a complex procedure on the manufacturing floor, or creating on-line archives of TV commercials for an advertising agency.

This portion of Teng is void of any discussion at all of search criteria or of any request employing search criteria, or of determination of any match between search criteria and any live presentation, or of transmission of an identifier of an encoder when a live presentation matches search criteria, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 9 recites "A method comprising: sending, to a search server, information identifying a live presentation available via a network at the beginning of the live presentation; and identifying, to the search server, when the live presentation is no longer available via the network", which is not taught or disclosed by Teng. Teng is silent with respect to how data describing current live presentations might be obtained or how such information might be kept current.

The portions of Teng cited in the Office Action discuss how one client may authorize or pre-empt another client's input. Terminating one client's input is not equivalent to identifying to a search server when a presentation is no longer available.

The Office Action states that col. 8, lines 57-62 describe sending an indication of the duration of a live presentation. That text is reproduced below:

> The stream controller 63 is also responsible for modifying the values of the stream attributes in response to Remote Procedure Calls received from a client. The stream attributes describe

> addressing, buffering, and connectivity characteristics of a stream. Stream attributes include: formats, identifications, source or destination, priority, maximum bandwidth, track statistics (e.g, size, number of disk array accesses, etc.)

Applicant finds no teaching of duration of any live presentation in this passage. In fact, Teng uses the word "duration" exactly once (col. 2, lines 64-66), indicating that the amount of data corresponding to a video segment of useful duration is large. As such, Teng fails to provide any teaching of identifying to a search server when a live presentation is no longer available as recited in claim 9, of identifying an indication of a duration of such presentation as recited in claim 10, of identifying an indication of when a live presentation has ended as recited in claim 11, to provide a subsequent indication to the search server indicating that the live presentation is finished, as recited in claim 2, of identifying characteristics of a part of a current live presentation as recited in claims 3 and 14, of sending an indication of the duration of the characteristics to the search server as recited in claim 15, .

The Office Action indicates (p. 3) that Teng teaches that the encoder provides information identifying current characteristics of the live performance and cites col. 13, lines 1-54 and 16-27. These text portions describe an interface whereby a presenter can identify viewers and messages that let the users know when they are "ON THE AIR" and when they are not. As such, these text portions provide no information at all regarding characteristics of a live presentation or of current characteristics of such. As a result, Teng does not and cannot anticipate the invention as recited in claims 3-6.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn, and that claims 1 and 9 and claims dependent therefrom should be allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,418,557 to Otani (hereinafter "Otani") in view of Teng and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,184,996 to Gase (hereinafter "Gase"). Claims 22-25, 28, 31, 32 and 35-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,996,015 to Day et al. ("hereinafter "Day"). Claims 40 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otani in view of Teng and Day. Claims 46-50 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otani in view of Teng. Claim 51 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otani in view of Teng and further in view of Gase. Claims 55 and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Day in view of Teng. Applicant respectfully disagrees and requests reconsideration.

In traversing the rejections, it is helpful to review the teachings of the references.

Otani is directed to an "On-Demand System Enabling Control Of Power-On/Off Of On-Demand Server" (Title). Otani teaches (Abstract) that "The on-demand system including a plurality of terminals, a plurality of on-demand servers and a center device having a request control unit, the center device further including a power control unit for controlling power-on and power-off of said on-

demand server according to the number of said terminals in operation, said power control unit including a counter which counts up in response to an on signal transmitted from said terminal which has started operation and counts down in response to an off signal transmitted from said terminal which has stopped operation and a power control part having a threshold value according to the number of said terminals in operation and the necessary number of said on-demand servers and comparing said count value and said threshold value to supply power to said on-demand server to be newly operated and stop power supply to said on-demand server whose operation is to be stopped."

Teng is discussed above with reference to the anticipation rejection.

Gase teaches a "Network Printer With Remote Print Queue Control Procedure" (Title). Gase also teaches (Abstract) that "The method of the invention enables remote control of a print queue in a network printer which receives print jobs over the Internet from plural client processors. The network printer includes a server procedure which enables transfer of files from the network printer over the network and a browser procedure which enables retrieval of files from client processors over the network. The method includes the steps of: establishing a queue of received print job identifiers; employing the server procedure to provide a first file to a client processor to enable the client processor to transmit a status request concerning the print queue; receiving a message including the status request and transmitting, in response, a second file with queue data to the client processor, the second file further including queue alteration choices; receiving a response message from the client processor with at least one queue alteration value; and altering the queue accordingly. The method further includes the step of

responding to a received URL from a scanner, by employing the browser procedure to retrieve a text file identified by the URL."

Day teaches a "Method Of Delivering Seamless And Continuous Presentation Of Multimedia Data Files To A Target Device By Assembling And Concatenating Multimedia Segments In Memory" (Title). Day teaches (Abstract) that "A method and implementing computer system is provided including a multimedia server connected in a network configuration with client computer systems. The multimedia server includes various functional units which are selectively operable for delivering and effecting the presentation of multimedia files to the client such that a plurality of multimedia files are seamlessly concatenated on the fly to enable a continuous and uninterrupted presentation to the client. In one example, client selected video files are seamlessly joined together at the server just prior to file delivery from the server. The methodology includes the analog to digital encoding of multimedia segments followed by a commonization processing to ensure that all of the multimedia segments have common operating characteristics. A seamless sequential playlist or dynamically created playlist is assembled from the selected and commonized segments and the resources needed to deliver and play the playlist are reserved in advance to assure resource availability for continuous transmission and execution of the playlist. At a predetermined point prior to an end point of each selected multimedia segment, the next selected segment is initialized and aligned in memory in preparation for a seamless switch to the next segment at the end of a previous segment, thereby providing a seamless flow of data and a continuous presentation of a plurality of selected multimedia files to a client system."

Claim 13 recites that "sending the identifier comprises sending, as the identifier, a uniform resource locator (URL)", which is not taught, disclosed, suggested or motivated by the cited references. The identifier is associated with the encoder from which the live presentation can be obtained.

Claim 13 depends from claim 12, which, in turn depends from claim 9. As such, claim 13 incorporates the recitations of these claims by reference (35 U.S.C. §112, 4TH paragraph).

The Office Action fails to specify what teachings of Otani might be related to the recitation of claim 13, however, in general, Otani discloses methods for determining when a lack of demand for signals from a central data store (video file device 80) via a group of signal conditioners (VOD servers 40-n) justifies turning the signal conditioners off. As such, Otani is not concerned with identification of the central data store and it makes no sense to provide a URL for the central data store in Otani's system.

As noted above, Teng fails to provide any teaching of identifying to a search server when a live presentation is no longer available as recited in claim 9. As noted in the Office Action (p. 6), Teng also fails to provide any teaching, disclosure, suggestion or motivation for supplying a URL as an identifier of an encoder from which a live presentation is available.

The teachings of Gase are rendered unsatisfactory for their intended purpose if modified to attempt to arrive at the invention as recited in Applicant's claims 13 and 51. It is improper to employ the teachings of a reference in a fashion that renders them unsuitable for their intended

purpose, as is discussed below in more detail with reference to MPEP §2143.01.

In a subsection entitled "THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION CANNOT RENDER THE PRIOR ART UNSATISFACTORY FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE", this MPEP section states that "If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)".

Gase's intended purpose is to enable remote control of a print queue in a network printer. This intended purpose is defeated by adapting the teachings of Gase to attempt to arrive at the subject matter of any of Applicant's claims.

Claim 22 recites "A method comprising: receiving information identifying a live presentation; and making the information available for searching only for the duration of the live presentation", which is not taught, disclosed, suggested or motivated by the cited references. The Office Action notes that Teng fails to teach receiving information identifying a live presentation. As noted above, Teng also fails to provide any teachings at all relative to duration of a live presentation, as recited in claim 22.

Day fails to cure this deficiency because Day is not concerned with live presentations and instead is concerned with presenting recorded video information. Day is also silent with respect to duration of any presentation. In fact, Day is void of the word "duration".

Claim 40 recites "One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform functions including: identifying topic information corresponding to live content, the topic information identifying a current topic of the live content; and transmitting the topic information to a server to make the topic information available for searching."

Otani is not concerned with live presentations and instead describes retrieval of recorded video from a central data storage device 80. Otani is also not concerned with topic information or use of such information for searching. The cited portion of Otani indicates that a request signal is employed to reference a selected video presentation. Otani is silent as to how a user might search the video storage device 80. In fact, but for the "Field of **Search**" front page entry, Otani is void of the term "search".

Otani is concerned with providing video on demand (Title, Abstract, Field, Summary etc.). By definition, such is not suited to handling or providing of live presentation material because live presentations are not driven by user demands.

As noted above, Teng is not concerned with searching and Teng's detailed description is void of the term "search".

Day also is not concerned with live presentations and instead describes user-driven retrieval of recorded multimedia data from a file system 215 (Fig. 2; col. 4, line 23 et seq.). Again, the teachings of Day are not suited to handling or providing of live presentation material because live presentations are not driven by user demands.

Claim 46 recites "An apparatus comprising: a bus; a processor coupled to the bus; and a memory, coupled to the bus, to store a plurality of instructions that are executed by the processor, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, cause the processor to, receive information identifying live content, maintain the information for as long as the live content is available, and use the information to respond to searches from a plurality of client computers", which is not taught, disclosed, suggested or motivated by the cited references.

As noted above, Otani is concerned with video on demand. By definition, such is not suited to handling or providing of live presentation material because live presentations are not driven by user demands. Otani is also silent with respect to maintaining information identifying live content for as long as the live content is available or use of such information for searches.

Further, both Otani and Teng are silent with respect to searching. As a result, combining their teachings cannot provide the invention as recited in claim 46.

Claim 55 recites "A method comprising: identifying a set of search criteria to be compared to information describing a plurality of live presentations; transmitting the set of search criteria to a server; and receiving a list of live presentations currently in progress that match the search criteria", which is not taught, disclosed, suggested or motivated by the cited references.

Day discloses searching only in the context of video on demand (see particularly col. 5, line 7 et seq.). As noted earlier, video on demand is incompatible with live presentations because live presentations are not driven by user demands. Teng is silent with respect to searching.

Neither Day nor Teng discuss information describing a plurality of live presentations or generation of a list of live presentations currently in progress that match search criteria. As a result, combining their teachings does not and cannot provide the invention as recited in claim 55.

Applicant notes the requirements of MPEP §2143, entitled "Basic Requirements of a Prima Facie Case of Obviousness" (see also MPEP §706.02(j), entitled "Contents of a 35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection."). MPEP §2143 states that "To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met.

First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." Inasmuch as the references fail to teach or disclose the elements recited in the claims, the references cannot provide motivation to modify their teachings to arrive at the invention as claimed, and the Examiner has identified no such teaching or disclosure in the references. As a result, the first prong of the test cannot be met.

MPEP §2143 further states that "Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations."

Inasmuch as the references fail to provide all of the features recited in Applicant's claims, the third prong of the test is not met. As a result, there cannot be a reasonable expectation of success. As such, the second prong of the test cannot be met.

MPEP §2143 additionally states that "The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be

found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)." This fourth criterion cannot be met because the references fail to teach or disclose the elements recited in the claim.

Accordingly, the unpatentability rejections fail all of the criteria for establishing a prima facie case of obviousness as set forth in the MPEP.

Further, suggestion to modify as put forth in the Office Action appears to employ an improper "obvious to try" rationale, as is discussed below in more detail with reference to MPEP §2145(X)(B). This MPEP section states that:

> The admonition that 'obvious to try' is not the standard under §103 has been directed mainly at two kinds of error. In some cases, what would have been 'obvious to try' would have been to vary all parameters or try each of numerous possible choices until one possibly arrived at a successful result, where the prior art gave either no indication of which parameters were critical or no direction as to which of many possible choices is likely to be successful.... In others, what was 'obvious to try' was to explore a new technology or general approach that seemed to be a promising field of experimentation, where the prior art gave only general guidance as to the particular form of the claimed invention or how to achieve it. *In re O'Farrell*, 853 F.2d 894, 903, 7 USPQ2d 1673, 1681 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (citations omitted).

No guidance has been identified within the references to determine which elements to pick or choose from the references, or of how to couple them to somehow arrive at subject matter such as is claimed. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn, and that Applicant's claims 13, 2-25, 28, 31, 32, 35-41 and 46-52 be allowed.

Conclusion

Claims 1-57 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Version of Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made

2. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the encoder is further to provide a subsequent indication to the search server indicating that the live presentation is [over] finished.

5. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 3, wherein:

the information identifying current characteristics comprises a topic description; and

the encoder provides a characteristics [over] finished indication to the search server when the topic identified by the topic description is no longer being presented.

8. (Amended) [A system as recited in claim 1]

A system comprising:

a search server;

an encoder configured to provide an indication of a currently available live presentation to the search server;

a client computer configured to submit a request with search criteria to the search server, the search server being configured to determine whether the currently available live presentation from the encoder matches the search criteria, and transmit an identifier of the encoder to the client computer when the currently available live presentation matches the search criteria;

wherein the encoder is configured to provide the live presentation to the client computer, and wherein the search server is further configured to:

maintain a record of user search requests; and

notify the corresponding user when a new live presentation becomes available that satisfies a search request.

9. (Amended) A method comprising:

sending, to a search server, information identifying a live presentation available [over] via a network at the beginning of the live presentation; and

identifying, to the search server, when the live presentation is no longer available [over] via the network.

16. [A method as recited in claim 15]

A method comprising:

sending, to a search server, information identifying a live presentation available via a network at the beginning of the live presentation; and

identifying, to the search server, when the live presentation is no longer available via the network, further comprising:

identifying, to the search server, information indicating characteristics of a part of the live presentation currently being presented, wherein the identifying information includes sending, to the search server, an indication of the duration of the characteristics, and wherein the identifying information comprises:

sending, to the search server, an indication of the characteristics when the current characteristics begin to describe the live presentation; and

sending, to the search server, a characteristics [over] finished indication when the current characteristics no longer describe the live presentation.

17. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising generating the information identifying the live presentation as the live presentation is presented [over] via the network.

18. (Amended) [A method as recited in claim 17]

A method comprising:

sending, to a search server, information identifying a live presentation available via a network at the beginning of the live presentation; and

identifying, to the search server, when the live presentation is no longer available via the network, further comprising generating the information identifying the live presentation as the live presentation is presented via the network, wherein the generating comprises identifying key words as the live presentation is presented.

19. (Amended) [A method as recited in claim 9]

A method comprising:

sending, to a search server, information identifying a live presentation available via a network at the beginning of the live presentation; and

identifying, to the search server, when the live presentation is no longer available via the network, further comprising using closed captioning data as the information identifying the live presentation.

26. (Amended) [A method as recited in claim 25]

A method comprising:

receiving information identifying a live presentation; and

making the information available for searching only for the duration of the live presentation, and further comprising:

receiving information identifying a plurality of live presentations;

for each live presentation, making the information identifying the live presentation available for searching only for the duration of the live presentation;

maintaining a record of user search requests; and

notifying the corresponding user when a new live presentation that satisfies a search request is available.

29. (Amended) [A method as recited in claim 22]

A method comprising:

receiving information identifying a live presentation; and

making the information available for searching only for the duration of the live presentation, wherein the making the information available for searching comprises:

adding the information to a database of currently available live presentations; and

deleting the information from the database when the live presentation has ended.

31. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising receiving an indication, from an encoder that is presenting the information, that the live presentation is [over] finished.

33. (Amended) [A method as recited in claim 32]

A method comprising:

receiving information identifying a live presentation;

making the information available for searching only for the duration of the live presentation;

receiving information identifying a current characteristic of the live presentation; and

making the current characteristic available for searching for as long as the characteristic describes a currently presenting portion of the live presentation, wherein the making the current characteristic available for searching comprises:

adding the information identifying the current characteristic to a database of currently available live presentations; and

deleting the information identifying the current characteristic from the database when the characteristic no longer describes the currently presenting portion of the live presentation.

34. (Amended) [A method as recited in claim 32]

A method comprising:

receiving information identifying a live presentation;

making the information available for searching only for the duration of the live presentation;

receiving information identifying a current characteristic of the live presentation; and

making the current characteristic available for searching for as long as the characteristic describes a currently presenting portion of the live presentation, and further comprising:

maintaining a record of user search requests; and

alerting a corresponding user when a new current characteristic that satisfies a search request describes the currently presenting portion of the live presentation.

42. (Amended) [One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 40]

One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

identifying topic information corresponding to live content, the topic information identifying a current topic of the live content; and

transmitting the topic information to a server to make the topic information available for searching, wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting the topic information to an encoder.

43. (Amended) [One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 40]

One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

identifying topic information corresponding to live content, the topic information identifying a current topic of the live content; and

transmitting the topic information to a server to make the topic information available for searching, further comprising transmitting a topic [over] finished indication to the server when the topic information is no longer the current topic.

44. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 43, wherein the transmitting the topic [over] finished indication comprises transmitting, as the topic [over] finished indication, a cancel topic indicator.

45. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 43, wherein the transmitting the topic [over] finished indication comprises transmitting, as the topic [over] finished indication, new current topic information.

53. (Amended) [An apparatus as recited in claim 46]

An apparatus comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to the bus; and

a memory, coupled to the bus, to store a plurality of instructions that are executed by the processor, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, cause the processor to,

receive information identifying live content,

maintain the information for as long as the live content is available, and

use the information to respond to searches from a plurality of client computers, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to:

receive information identifying current topic information identifying a topic currently being presented as part of the live content;

receive an indication that the topic is no longer being presented;

maintaining the topic information for a period of time after receiving the indication that the topic is no longer being presented; and

using the current topic information to respond to searches from the plurality of computers during the period of time.

54. (Amended) [An apparatus as recited in claim 46]

An apparatus comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to the bus; and

a memory, coupled to the bus, to store a plurality of instructions that are executed by the processor, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, cause the processor to,

receive information identifying live content,

maintain the information for as long as the live content is available, and

use the information to respond to searches from a plurality of client computers, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to generate, based on the information identifying live content, descriptive information to be added to a database of live content.

57. (Amended) [A method as recited in claim 55]

A method comprising:

identifying a set of search criteria to be compared to information describing a plurality of live presentations;

transmitting the set of search criteria to a server; and

receiving a list of live presentations currently in progress that match the search criteria, and further comprising:

transmitting a notification type to the server that indicates how a user that identifies the set of search criteria should be notified by the server when a live presentation is determined by the server to match the search criteria.

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